

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1377
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Freda Reneé Moore Smith of Chattanooga upon the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Freda Reneé Moore Smith is most assuredly one such superlative professional; she will soon take a well earned retirement after serving with distinction as the Principal of the Tommie F. Brown Academy of Classical Learning for the past three years, and as a teacher and administrator in the public schools of Chattanooga and Hamilton county for thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, a Chattanooga native, Freda Reneé Moore was born July 31, 1953, to the late George Conley, Sr., and Mrs. Gertrude F. Conley; she is the eldest of five children; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the first integrated class to graduate from City High School; she received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and her master's degree in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and received the highest academic achievement award during her senior year of college; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary career in education, Freda Moore Smith taught at Sunnyside Elementary from 1975 to 1989 and at Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences from 1989 to 2000. Teaching at Birchwood, Mary Ann Garber, Wallace A. Smith, and Hardy, she served as a consulting teacher for Hamilton County from 2000 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, she was Assistant Principal at East Lake Elementary for one year before agreeing to serve as Principal at the Brown Academy, from which post she is now retiring; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith has found inexpressible joy in preparing children for the “real world,” in encouraging students to learn and discover, and in instilling in them an appreciation for the benefits of a good education; and

WHEREAS, her most rewarding experiences in educational administration have been in recognizing the blessings wrought by dedicated teachers, and seeing the critical impact of increased parental participation on the school culture and the community; and

WHEREAS, though her interests are many and diverse, Freda Moore Smith ultimately chose to devote her career to teaching, so that she might be a positive and beneficial influence in the lives of young people; she views teaching as a calling, not a job, and her greatest reward in teaching has been watching students master a new concept or skill and understanding that this knowledge is part of a continual process of learning that will empower and enrich their lives; and

WHEREAS, she is a past member of Hurst United Methodist Church and Greater Friendship Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, her professional accomplishments notwithstanding, Freda Moore Smith is most grateful for the love and support of her husband, William F. Smith, and their son, Omar;

WHEREAS, she attributes much of the credit for her acumen, integrity, and legacy of hard work to her leaders and mentors: Sam Gooding; Tom Wolfe; Mary Ann Holt; and Judy Shirley; and

WHEREAS, in her spare time, Ms. Smith enjoys spending time with family, traveling, shopping, cooking, and reading; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues, faculty, staff, and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Freda Moore Smith truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher and administrator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Freda Renee Moore Smith for her generous dedication to her students, the Chattanooga community, and the great State of Tennessee, as Principal of the Tommie F. Brown Academy of Classical Learning and offer her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.